# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4801
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
SHORTAGE OF MEDICINES
Bose Shri Subrata

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is acute shortage and non-availability of some life saving drugs as well as essential medicines in Central Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, hospital-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate availability of medicines in the hospitals?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Generally, there is no shortage of medicines in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Sucheta Kriplani Hospital. In these hospitals, medicines according to formulary are distributed free of cost to patients as per the existing policy. In case of non-availability of essential and life saving medicines, the same are also procured and supplied to poor patients free of cost.

In the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) also all life saving emergency medicines and surgical items as per Institute`s formulary, are issued to all patients irrespective of their social and economic status. Certain essential drugs which are stocked in the Institute in limited quantity are issued only to those patients who cannot afford to buy such medicines. The patients admitted in private wards are however, required to buy the medicines (other than life saving/emergency medicines) themselves. Further, costly medicines and essential drugs (such as anti-cancer drugs, higher antibiotics) nutritional supplement and high cost of surgical disposable etc. are required to be procured by the patients from their sources. For poor and indigent patient there is a provision for financial help from Hospital Poor Patient`s Fund and National Illness Assistance Fund etc.